

EXHIBIT

24

DATE

2-12-13

HB

375

TO THE HOUSE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE:

RE: HB 375-AN ACT CREATING THE ELK, DEER AND ANTELOPE DAMAGE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

POSITION: **Laurel Rod & Gun Club** hereby goes on record **OPPOSING** HB 375 based on the following reasons:

- In Montana, wildlife are considered both an asset and liability to property owners.
- Deer, Elk and Antelope were on the Montana Landscape long before white men arrived and it is man who has taken their habitat from them.
- When purchasing land, one must accept wildlife as a co-user of the land.
- The presence of wildlife increases the property values for the landowner.
- Since Sportsmen do not share in the financial profits of agricultural producers, why should Sportsmen dollar's be used to offset their costs of doing business.

Once again we would like to state our **OPPOSITION** for HB 375

Laurel Rod & Gun Club

JW WESTMAN